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Traversal

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner finds that the Applicant's use of the name PVBX in Claims 1, 12, 15, and 16 is indefinite because the definition of "X" is not provided.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The term "PVBX" is a term used by the Applicant to generically describe a cross-linked PVB composition. This is stated explicitly in the claim. The Applicant can be their own lexicographer, and the Applicant contends that the term is clear in what it conveys.

The "X" designation is used to identify and distinguish a cross-linked PVB composition from a conventional PVB composition. The "X" is not used as a chemical marker, as the Examiner seems to suggest. The term "PVBX" as used in the practice of the present invention is cross-linked PVB, which in turn is described in the specification with enough clarity to provide one of ordinary skill in the art enough information to identify what is claimed by the Applicant.

In Claim 5, the Applicant narrows the source of the PVB used to obtain the PVBX composition to modified PVB, which has been described generically in the specification. The Applicant respectfully submits that the description provided in the specification for the term "modified PVB" is sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the art to understand what is claimed by the Applicant.

The Applicant has set out in the specification that modified PVB can be purchased commercially, and as such the preparation of a modified PVB is not required to be a limitation of the presently claimed invention. Therefore, the Applicant contends that the present claims do not require a process step for making a modified PVB.

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The Applicant respectfully disagrees that the limitation calling for the use of a catalyst to make the cross-linked PVB composition is unclear. One of ordinary skill in the art would know what a suitable catalyst for a cross-linking reaction would be for any given cross-linking reaction of PVB and the cross-linking agents specifically provided in Claim 13.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-5, 9-12, 15 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lenox et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,921,791).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Lenox does not teach or claim use of a cross-linked PVB composition (PVBX). The Applicant respectfully contends that the Examiner has superimposed the teachings of the present invention on Lenox, and read into Lenox what is not specifically taught or claimed therein. Nowhere in Lenox is it taught that the PVB diluent is cross-linked, or reacted in any way, with the other components of the blend. In fact, the use of the term "diluent" suggests that the PVB is merely a solvent or a dispersing agent in the composition of Lenox. No other role for PVB is suggested by Lenox. To anticipate the Applicant's invention, the cited art must necessarily result in the Applicant's claimed invention. The teachings of Lenox do not necessarily lead to the Applicant's claimed invention, and therefore it cannot be said that Lenox anticipates the Applicant's claimed invention.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Hofmann (U.S. Pat. No. 6,506,835). The Examiner admits that Hofmann does not teach a cross-linked PVB composition, but contends that a reaction between the carboxyl groups of the compatibilizer in Hofmann with the hydroxyl groups of PVB would be "unavoidable".

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The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that reactions between carboxylic acid groups and hydroxyl groups are "unavoidable". One of ordinary skill in the chemical art would know that carboxylic acid functionality typically reacts with hydroxyl functionality only under the influence of some sort of catalyst. Heat alone is generally not sufficient to cause such a reaction. To the contrary, one of ordinary skill appreciates that a reaction between a carboxylic acid functional group and a hydroxyl group can be completely avoided by avoiding the use of specific types of catalysis and/or other reaction conditions (such as, for example, the removal of water formed as a reaction by-product of the esterification reaction). The conditions for carrying out a reaction between the PVB hydroxyls and the carboxylic acid functionality of the ethylene-based compatibilizer are specified in Hofmann, nor is there a suggestion that such a reaction is desirable. Further, there is no evidence offered that would suggest that such a reaction in fact occurs in Hofmann. The suggestion for the desirability of the cross-linking reaction has to come from the cited art, not from the Applicant's invention or specification. Since no such suggestion

Further, the combination of Lenox and Hofmann do not overcome the shortcomings of the Examiner's argument, for the same reasons as provide above by the Applicant.

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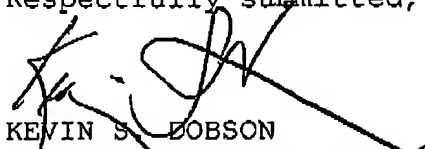
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The Applicant believes that the reasons provided hereinabove are sufficient to overcome the obviousness rejection based on the cited art references. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of Claims 1-18 in view of the arguments presented, and instead issue a Notice of Allowability for the same claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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